

Wenham Board of Selectmen ~ Policy Meeting
Town Clerk's Office, Town Hall
June 13, 2005
6:30 P.M.

APPROVED BY
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
AT THEIR MEETING OF

July 26, 2005

Present: Tom Tanous, Chair; Peter Hersee; Don Pickard

Also Present: Jeff Chelgren, Town Administrator; Catherine Tinsley, Secretary John Darling,
Building Committee Chair; Larry Swartz, Finance and Advisory Committee, Chair;

Mr. Tanous opened the meeting at 6:34 PM.

The Selectmen's meeting was moved from the Selectmen's Meeting Room to the Collector's office, where there was air conditioning.

Sarah Johnson, Town Collector/ Treasurer requested authorization from the BOS to hire Kathleen McMahon to fill the vacant Assistant Treasurer/Collector position. Mr. Chelgren identified that the salary is starting at the lowest step salary rate of \$36,000 per year. He went on to note that the salary is at a competitive market rate. It was identified that this is a union position and therefore there is no contract.

Mr. Hersee moved the appointment of Kathleen McMahon as assistant Treasurer/ Collector. Mr. Pickard seconded and the motion was approved by unanimous vote.

Mr. Tanous identified that if there is no quorum at the Town Meeting on June 16, 2005, then the meeting will be adjourned.

He went on to say that the Special Town Meeting could be held prior to the continuance of the Town Meeting.

The BOS discussed the citizen's petition to abolish the Historic District Commission and the options available to the Town Meeting. Mr. Weaver explained that the Commission cannot be disbanded but that the members may be removed and a new Commission appointed. They discussed new potential appointees to the HDC and Finance Committee.

Paul Weaver, Town Counsel/ Moderator and Fran Young, Town Clerk were present for this part of the meeting.

Mr. Weaver identified that the continuance of the Annual Town Meeting will only be held if a quorum of 128 voters is met and that the voter lists for the Special Town Meeting and the Town Meeting are separate.

The Special Town Meeting, regarding the School override budget, which requires a quorum of 51 voters, will be held first.

Discussion of the color of the voter cards for the different meetings followed. Ms. Young noted that there are newly registered voters who previously were not registered to vote at the Town Meeting. Two different colored cards will be used.

The BOS discussed with Mr. Darling the efforts made with the HDC to reach a compromise on the Town Hall/Police Station project. The budget for the project was discussed and concerns were identified that the project has been delayed too long to build the Town Hall/Police Station within the approved budget.

Mr. Pickard stated that he does not support going back to the town for additional money.

Mr. Darling responded that it is too early to work the cost into the budget but the residents should vote on the options as appropriate and reiterated that the one building concept is still the most economical way for the town to proceed.

Mr. Swartz said that he agrees that the Town needs to be informed that there is a possibility that the project will be over budget because of the delay.

Mr. Darling responded that this construction season is lost and because of the passage of time, the cost has increased by an unknown factor but that it is going to cost the town more because of the delay.

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Mr. Weaver identified that the adjourned Annual Town Meeting will be convened because it was the will of the people that the meeting be reconvened on June 16, 2005 and for the BOS, BC, and HDC to work on a compromise during this time.

The BOS will identify that currently there is no compromise on the table but that the parties are continuing with the mediation process.

Discussion followed regarding allowable motions at Town Meeting regarding the citizen's petition intention to disband the HDC.

John Darling left the meeting.

Transition Plan for the Assessor Department and BOA

Mr. Chelgren identified concerns that the Finance Committee is not funding the Board of Assessors transition plan in the FY06 budget.

Mr. Chelgren also identified that three BOA's have resigned and that Jack Wilhelm will stay on as an appointee until a new board is appointed.

Mr. Hersee moved to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing ongoing negotiations and union bargaining issues and return to open session.

Mr. Pickard seconded and the motion was approved by roll call vote.

Mr. Hersee moved to return to open session. Mr. Pickard seconded and the motion was approved by roll call vote.

Mr. Chelgren identified that the Hiltz Trash contract has been increased for unexpected fuel costs in the amount of \$1,200 instead of original \$2,000 requested.

He went on to say that the League of Women Voters (LWV) is advising that the Town modify its recycling program to include office paper, and a wider range of paper products at an additional cost of \$1,500. Mr. Chelgren will use the stabilization fund to finance the changes. The Selectmen were in favor of this proposal.

Mr. Chelgren identified that the Library contract costs with Bill Tyack for work done on HVC system for the last 6 months is in the amount of \$1,200. The Library is requesting that this be paid out of the construction fund.

Mr. Hersee moved to approve that Mr. Tyack be paid out of the Construction Fund.

Mr. Pickard seconded and the motion was approved by unanimous vote.

A legal invoice from Bill August for Cable TV Negotiations with Verizon in the amount of \$1,895 was discussed with Wenham's half, \$950, to be paid out of the joint account with Hamilton.

Mr. Pickard moved to approve payment in the amount of \$950 to be paid out of the joint account with Hamilton.

Mr. Hersee seconded and the motion was approved by unanimous vote.

The BOS discussed their summer meeting schedule and agreed that they will continue meeting on the first and third Tuesdays of the month.

8:40 PM - Mr. Hersee moved to adjourn and the vote was unanimous.